

ACN Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2008

Members Present:

K. Barnes, S. Blair, J. Broskowski, S. Byrne Irwin, C. Cepeda, K. Coffaro, T. Current, T. Danner, J. Dvorak, L. Fitzenberger, C. Franklin, L. Fuller, S. Gosz, S. Gruzis, J. Hawkins, B. Hinshaw, S. Kaempfer, M. Knasinski, K. Koncki, G. Kopke, R. McGraw, L. Molina, P. Muas-Xiong, P. Mullikin, K. Omachinski, V. Provost, K. Roosevelt, J. Salzer, L. Sieckert, B. Simon, H. Spearman, Y. Tejada, R. Williams, J. Wishman, C. Wolf, A. Wrench, S. Zlotocha

Jonathan Broskowski, Student Accessibility Center

Jonathan was presented with the 2008 ACN Recognition Award by Ruth Williams and Jean Salzer. Congratulations!

Damira Grady, Life Coach/Advisor, Life Impact Program

- The Life Impact Program is an Access to Success pilot program.
- The program added 17 students last year to reach 40 total, and hopes to add 10 in spring to reach 50. Students in the program have children, are low income, have at least a 2.5 GPA and agree to work with a Life Coach.
- The office is in Mellencamp Room 104, across from Financial Aid. Renewable \$5000 scholarships are provided, as well as a laptop computer, access to emergency funds, and coaching.
- 122 students applied for the program last year, 45 the year before.
- The Life Impact Expansion Project doesn't provide the scholarship but does provide workshops and resources/
- The due date for applications for fall is March 30 but this may be closed earlier. Remind students that this isn't just a scholarship but a complete program.
- 71% of student parents surveyed say it's difficult to find time to study, 51% say it's difficult to complete their academic program within the time constraints.

NACADA presentations from October's national conference

Jennifer Hawkins discussed the presentations on technology, including blogs, Blackboard, IM's and Facebook. Some schools have an advising site within WebCT or Blackboard. Blogs are not very popular – not very interactive. Instant messaging can be dangerous because it takes attention away from in-person students. (Virtual walk-in hours could be implemented, though.) Some colleges and universities use clickers for attendance, etc., and these could be used in faculty or advisor meetings for anonymous votes.

Penn State is very advanced in the area of virtual advising.

Jennifer is using Skype to help with retention of distance-education students – callers can see each other instead of just talking on the phone. She offers this as an option for an advising appointment and is trying to set up a tutorial to teach students how to use it.

Campus Community Reports

Enhancing Advising Subcommittee

A working group has been put together to focus on freshman advising. The group will also be conducting a best practices discussion at the Access to Success conference in January.

Graduation and Retention Workgroup

The Access to Success conference will take place on January 30. Morning sessions will focus on the students' first three years. The afternoon will feature a student panel moderated by Chancellor Santiago, followed by workgroups focusing on retention issues.

Center for International Education

Yomarie Tejada was introduced as a new Study Abroad Coordinator. A Study Abroad Fair will be held in the Union on February 18th.

LGBT Resource Center

The Center has been conducting Safe Space Training, which is a 2 hour interactive session.

Enrollment Services

The admission deadline for spring was December 15, but extenuating circumstances (military duty, medical emergencies) exist. Those who missed the deadline should NOT be encouraged to use the Special Student designation. Student drops should be before December 15. Grades are due by December 23rd and students will be able to see them the next day.

Student Accessibility Center

SAC will be proctoring finals for students with disabilities (42 students were scheduled for Monday December 15th.) The Center is also training faculty every third Wednesday of the month beginning in January.

Tutoring and Academic Resource Center

Tutoring will be provided over UWinteriM in Bolton 180 on a walk-in basis. Walk-in registration for spring semester tutoring will take place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 28-30.

Announcements

A New Freshman orientation was held on Friday December 12th for spring admissions – 68 students attended.

The Category A Subcommittee will be hosting an informational workshop on January 7th to help academic staff with their annual reviews.

Next ACN meeting: Tuesday February 17th 8:30 am Union 191.